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"AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF ANNA BHAGYA YOJANA: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BAGALKOT DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA STATE"

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AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF ANNA BHAGYA YOJANA: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BAGALKOT DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA STATE

I. Introduction:

Food is a basic need of life. Its importance is seen in the fact that it is a basic means of sustenance and an adequate food intake, in terms of quantity and quality, is a key for healthy and helpful life. The importance of food is also shown in the fact that it accounts for a substantial part of a typical Indian household resources. Various foods serve as important "vehicles" for taking nutrients into the body and the body and bringing about human pleasure, hence, the need for food to be taken in the right quantity and quality. To measure the quality of any food taken, there are classes of essential nutrients, which must be combined, in appropriate proportion to ensure a balanced food intake. These include carbohydrates, protein, fats and oil, vitamins and minerals. A country's economic improvement is dependent on its factor endowment. This includes the non-human and human resources. The productive capacity of the human resources is however a function of how well fed they are. Food problem, with regards to quality and quantity, is one of the characteristics of developing countries like India.

Public Distribution System in India is a major intervention aimed at ensuring food security to all the poor, specially the vulnerable sections of the society. It not only provides essential commodities, as well as food grains, to more than 6 million families on regular basis, but also ensures the prices stability in the market.

1) Background

The Public Distribution System (PDS) in India is more than half-a century old as rationing was first introduced in 1939 in Bombay by the British Government as a measure to ensure equitable allocation of food grains to the urban consumers in the face of increasing prices. Thus, rationing in times of crisis like famine was the historical precursor to the national policy of stabilization and management of food grains. Among the number of Price Control Conferences held during 1940 42, the sixth, held in September, 1942 laid down the basic principles of a Public Distribution System for India. The Food branch, set up in December, 1942, formulated an All India Basic Plan that dealt with issues such as procurement, contracts for purchasing agents, public distribution, check up and storage. The basic objective of the Food policy was

stabilization of food prices in the economic development. With inflation spiraling and the food situation deteriorating persistently in many parts of the country, the Food Grains Policy Committee (1943) recommended for the introduction of rationing in urban centers with a population of more than 100,000. The consequent food distribution was exclusively focused on the urban centers. That with partition, India bequeathed 82% of the population of the subcontinent, 75% of the cereal production and 69% of the irrigated area aggravated the food situation. However, under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi, a policy of decontrol was announced in December, 1947. Policies kept changing with the reintroduction of controls in September, 1948, shift to decontrol during 1952-54 and recourse to controls in 1957.

The Food Grains Enquiry Committee (Ashok Mehta Committee Report, 1957) argued for controls of a flexible indirect nature, opening of more Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and continuing the zonal policy of bringing together surplus and deficit areas within zones, controlling prices within each zone.

In India the Green Revolution and food self-sufficiency brought about a new dimension in the food grains management. The focus was on fair procurement price for farmers to insulate them from market anomalies, buffer stocking, and control of market prices and public distribution of essential commodities. Food Corporation of India was established in 1965, to function as an autonomous organization, working on commercial lines, to undertake purchase, storage, movement, transport, distribution and sale of food grains and other food stuff. The Study Team on FPSs headed by V.M.Dandekar (1966) observed that the foreign supplies had proved inadequate in meeting the increasing demand for food grains through FPSs. The Team recommended that the pricing in FPSs should be market oriented and that they should maximize their share in the market. The Food Grains Policy Committee (1966) advocated formulation of a National Food Budget on the basis of zonal restrictions, introduction of statutory rationing in bigger urban areas, intensification of procurement, building up buffer stocks and a more important role for Food Corporation of India (FCI) in inter-state trade.

The Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) envisaged that the Public Distribution System would "have to be so developed that it remains hereafter a stable and permanent feature of our strategy to control prices, reduce fluctuations in them and achieve an equitable distribution of essential consumer goods". Essential Supplies Program, introduced in 1982 as the 17th point of the New 20 Point Program, intended to expand the PDS through more FPSs, including mobile FPSs, to

make available text books and exercise books to students on a priority basis and to promote strong consumer protection movement. The number of FPSs increased from 2.30 lakhs in January, 1980 to 3.02 lakhs in January, 1984. While the Government of India had itself shouldered the responsibility of supplying essential commodities, viz; wheat, rice, sugar, kerosene, edible oils and soft coke, the State Governments had the option to add other items considered essential by them.

Effective working of the Program was predicated on ensuring multi-faceted co-ordination, as the essential commodities were handled by different governmental agencies; food grains by the FCI, sugar by the FCI/State Civil Supplies Corporations/cooperatives, import and distribution of edible oils by the State Trading Corporation, soft coke by Department of Coal and Coal India Limited and kerosene by Indian Oil Corporation/Bharat Petroleum/Hindustan Petroleum. Vigilance Committees were also formulated at different levels to ensure proper distribution.

In India over the past decade a series of events have brought the question of food security into sharp focus (UNDP, 1999). According to the Food and Agricultural Organization, India alone accounts for over 400 million poor and hungry people. For a nation long inured to scarcity and starvation the problem is ironic: it is the one of plenty. Why in a food surplus nation where buffer stocks are three times what are required for food security, thousands still die of malnutrition and hunger? While the objective of food security has been reached, the fundamental individual right for food has not been reached. The purpose of the present research is to evaluate the impact of the Indian public Distribution System (PDS) on poverty and food security. The results are of immediate policy interest with respect to the current debate and re-shaping of the Public Distribution System in India.

Since June 1997 PDS turned into the Targeted Public Distribution System, the aim is to target the poorest household by differentiating the access quantities and prices at which one is allow to buy. The differentiation is made with respect to the state official poverty lines. Those households below the poverty line (BPL households) are entitled with ration card that allows them to buy more quantity at a higher subsidized price.

The functioning of the Public Distribution System in India has suffered due to inefficient management over the decades and lack of proper targeting to improve the food security of the poor. Although, India has achieved self-sufficiency in food grain production, and surplus food

stocks are available in the FCI godowns across the country, the poor have little access to food as they lack purchasing power.

2) Concept of Food Security:

The concept of food security has evolved since the First World Conference in 1947 and it is now accepted globally that it relates to the access by all people at all times to enough food for an active healthy life, but is used differently at different levels, irrespective of the reference level, food reserve is now considered a criterion for food security of the nation but this is not exclusive. Although food availability has increased along with the growing human population over the last 30 years in India, yet there are still 200 million people suffering from mal nutrition. In India, the food production and food reserve is sufficient but it is not available to all the people in the country and there are wide gaps between and within regions. As feeding people do not nourish them. It is important to increase the accessibility of markets, so that the people who are, directly or indirectly depending on livestock for their livelihoods are able to nourish themselves. In real sense, the food security exists, when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient. Safe and nutrition's food that meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

The World Food Summit (Rome, 1996) which took place at a time of growing international concern over slow growth in global food production and expanding population gave a new impetus to the fight for food security, by focusing attention on the food issues. The Rome Declaration on World Food Security, convened by FAO defines food security as "When all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".

The definition of food security encompasses many issues. It deals with production in relation to food availability; it addresses distribution in that, the produce should be accessed by all; it covers consumption in the sense that, individual food needs are met in order for that individual to be active and healthy. The availability and accessibility of food to meet individual food needs should also be sustainable. This implies that, early warning systems of food insecurity should monitor indicators related to food production, distribution and consumption. The performance of these indicators, therefore, will detect whether a certain area or population is food secure or insecure in relation to the spirit of the above definition. Thus, food security is

closely related to poverty and chronic food insecurity translates into high degree of vulnerability to famine and hunger.

a. Public Distribution System:

Public Distribution System (PDS) as a general concept. It includes broad definition can be considered for the practical purpose of this study. PDS means distribution of essential commodities to a large number of people through a network of Fair Price Shop (FPS) on a recurring basis. The commodities included Wheat, Rice, Sugar and Kerosene.

PDS evolved as a major instrument of the Government's economic policy for ensuring availability of food grains to the public at affordable prices as well as for enhancing the food security for the poor. It is an important constituent of the strategy for poverty eradication and is intended to serve as a safety net for the poor whose number is more than 330 million and are nutritionally at risk. PDS with a network of about 4.99 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPS) is perhaps the largest distribution network of its type in the world.

b. Target Group:

The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced w.e.f., June-1-1997 which makes a clear distribution between the Below Poverty Line (BPL) populations would be identified in every state BPL family would be entitled to a certain quantity of food grains at specially subsidized prices. While BPL population were offered food grains at half the economic cost, the APL, who were not to have a fixed entitlement to food grains, were supplied grains at their economic cost.

c. Beneficiaries of PDS:

The Central and State Government's undertake the responsibility to identify the eligible households/beneficiaries and issue a ration card also known as household supply card which enables them to avail the prescribed quality of food grains and/or other commodities-Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line. Defining BPL and APL families is based on the criteria like annual income, land holding, type of dwelling etc, which are decided by the Government from time to time. Out of the BPL families, the poorest of the poor to the extent of the target are selected for Anthyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapurna Scheme. For each of these categories, the states issues ration cards of different colors to the beneficiaries to easily differentiate between them.

Several schemes are introduced to allivate Poverty in India, among them “Anna Bhagya Yojana” is one of the important scheme sponcered by state Government.

The Government of Karnataka launched its much-awaited ambitious programme Anna Bhagya Yojana on July 9, 2013 to supply Food Grains at Rs.1 cost to priority household families across the state. The total beneficiaries cover under this scheme is 108.98 lakh through a network of 20,778 Fair Price Shops. From May 1, 2015, people holding BPL cards inclusive of Anna Antyodaya beneficiaries used get five kgs of food grain and subsidized sugar, palm oil and iodized salt free. While in north Karnataka, 3 kgs of rice and two kgs. Of wheat were provided, in the South 4 kgs of rice and 1 kg of wheat were given free. One kg. Of salt would cost Rs 2, while a liter of palm oil was sold at Rs 25.There were nearly 1.08 crore families identified as poor falling under BPL(below poverty line). Poverty reduce the main objective of this scheme.

In the year of 2017 April the Government extended the quantity of food grains to the Anna Bhagya Yojana, Antyodaya Yojana BPL (below poverty line) and APL(Above poverty line) cards. According to the new direction, every member will get 7 kg of Rice and 35 kg for a AAY card freely. 3 liter of kerosene will be given for each AAY APL and BPL at the rate of 25 Rs per liter. The Government invested 9350 crores for the Anna Bhagya Yojana since 2017. The central Government gave Rs 27 as a subsidy for a kg of rice.

Cost of the Ration as on 2017

Ration	Distribution Quantity	Rate (BPL & APL) per kg	Rate (APL) per kg
Rice/Wheat/Ragi/Jowar	7 kg (per member)	Free	Rs.15 for rice Rs. 10 wheat (maximum 5 kg)
Palm oil/ Sunflower oil	1 liter for 1 ration card	Rs. 25 per liter (palm) Rs. 40 per liter sunflower	
Sugar	1 kg for 1 ration card	Rs. 15	

Salt (with iodine)	1 kg for 1 ration card	Rs. 2	
Dal	1 kg for 1 ration card	Rs. 33 (munga dal) Rs. 38 (toor dal)	
Kerosene	3 liter for 1 ration card which gas free 1 liter for gas connection holders	Rs. 25	

(Source: Government of Karnataka Dept of Food and Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs – www.ahar.kar.nic.in)

II. Significance of the Study:

The India is second largest country with population. According to 2011 censes, 21.9 percent of total population living below poverty line it is divided among rural and urban area that is 25.7 percent and 13.7percent respectively. To elevate poverty and develop rural as well as urban areas of India, central and state governments introduced several schemes and programmes.

PDS is an important scheme, at the same time heavy expenditure is made by Government on this scheme. Present study has greater relevance because, the Policy Makers at Government level should know, whether the Anna Bhagya Yojana has reached to right beneficiaries or not and about implementation of the scheme is done as per the percribed norms of the Government, malpractices that exist in this scheme, problems faced by the rural as well as urban poor in availing the benefits from the scheme.

Present study evaluates one of the important Food Security schemes entitled “Anna Bhagya Yojana” is the scheme to fulfill the essential foodgrains need of poor people belongs Economically Weaker Section of the Karnataka.

III. Review of Literature:

Dresrusse (1996) believed that food security could be measured through traditional demand and supply equations. He considered population growth, per capita food consumption and income elasticity in demand equation and on supply side, access to land, yield and marketing cost were specified. With the result he concludes that agricultural research should be given top priority to achieve food security.

Swaminathan (1996) suggested some strategies to achieve food security maintaining the existing growth in agricultural production to ensure sustainable availability of food, sustaining productivity and reserve base over the period but keeping the economic cost at minimum, ensuring adequacy of household income through promotion of more social security measures and providing entitlement to food to vulnerable group in the society through social security measures.

At the all India level, between 1972-73 and 1993-94, according to National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) data, per capita consumption of cereals declined from 15.3 to 13.4 kg per month during the last two decades. During these two decades ending 1993-94, there occurred a study decline in the food share from 73 per cent to 55 per cent at the all-India level. This seems to confirm Engel's law, which says that economic development is accompanied by declining food shares. He feels that a decline in per capita consumption of food per period may; however be attribute to changed inner composition of food. Beunett's law argued that consumer gradually switch to a more expensive diet, substituting quality for quantity. This is confirmed in the Indian context as revealed by the NSSO data. The public distribution system (PDS) as a social safety net can be understood by the fact that aggregate availability of food grains per is not enough to ensure the ability to acquire food grains. Production does not automatically guarantee consumption. The more presence of food in the economy, or in the market, does not entitle a person to consume it. Even the ability to buy may not guarantee food security, unless there is an efficient distribution system says Baskar majumdar (2004).

George (1999) while analyzing food security situation in India found that economic access to food could be achieved through a mix of employment and income policies for farm sector. He reiterated that the strategy for reducing poverty and enhanced food security should be based on agricultural development. Based on the consumption pattern, he indicated that about

half of the rural consumers and about two third of urban consumer had nutritionally food consumption levels. In as effort to narrate states of World Food Economy.

IV. Statement of the Problem

Several studies confirm that a thriving nexus is in operation between transporters, fair price shops and officials of the department including anti-hoarding cell and the entire network of civil supplies. Benefits of Public Distribution system was supposed to reach only the needy, but what is happening that while distributing food grains, it was often reported that, food grains to be distributed, has been diverted to open market. In recent years, lack of administrative policies and management of fair price shops level. There are a large number of problems in implementation and operation of the scheme, so these are all the problems faced under the present public distribution system in Bagalkot District of Karnataka.

V. Objectives of the Study

The present study is mainly based on the following objectives;

1. To study the importance of Public Distribution System.
2. To analyse the concept of Anna Bhagya Yojana.
3. To evaluate the impact of Anna Bhagya Yojana on the Below Poverty Line households in the study area.
4. To examine various problems of ABY scheme.
5. To suggest the remedial measures to solve the problems in the implementation of Anna Bhagya Yojana.

VI. Hypothisis of the Study

The following hypotheses have been framed in the present study;

H^1: BPL families are not getting good quality of commodities under the Anna Bhagya Yojana.

H^2: Anna Bhagya Yojana helped many households to cross the poverty line and to lead better standard of living in the study area.

VII. Research Methodology

Keeping in view of the objectives, in the present study based on primary and secondary data have been used and it is followed by Survey method and Interview of respondents in the study area.

❖ Selection of the study

The present study is going to be conducted at Various Taluks of Bagalkot District of Karnataka State.

❖ Sources of the Study

This research study is based on both descriptive and analytical method. The study is based on both primary and secondary data.

- Primary data will be collect from respondents in the mode of Simple random sample method through field survey with the help of interview schedule.
- Secondary data will be collect from various books, journals, Planning Commission Reports, Economic Survey of India 2018. Economic Survey of Karnataka 2017-18 and Reports from Dept of Food Security.

❖ Sample size

The present study draws sample by following simple random sampling method and the size of sample will calculate with the help of Creative Research System's[1] online sample size calculator at 95 percent confidence level and 5 confidence interval.

There are 6 taluks in Bagalkot District, present study will be select respondents on the basis of number of beneficiaries resides in various areas of the District. The interview will be taken to beneficiaries of Anna Bhagya Yojana with the help of Interview Schedule.

❖ Tools of Data Analysis

A few simple statistical tools such as averages, percentages, frequency, and range, have been used for the analysis and interpretation of the data. The sources of data were discussed at appropriate places in the present study.

VIII. Chapter Scheme

- Chapter – I: Research Design.
- Chapter - II: Review of Literature.
- Chapter – III: Food Security in India and Karnataka
- Chapter – IV: Anna Bhagya Yojana; An Overview
- Chapter - V: Profile of Bagalkot District.
- Chapter –VI: Data Analysis and interpretation.
- Chapter – VI: Summary of Major Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion

[1] https://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm

IX. Limitations of the Study

The following are some of the limitations of the study

1. The study is limited to the Anna Bhagya Yojana.
2. The present study will be conduct only in Bagalkot District of karnataka state.
3. The study covers progress and prospects of Anna Bhagya Yojana during study years.

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